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July 20, 2009

Susan M. Hudson, Clerk
Vermont Public Service Board
112 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05620

2009 JUL 20 PM 2:54
RECEIVED
CLERK OF THE BOARD
112 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT 05620

Re: Comments on Streetlighting Tariff

Dear Mrs. Hudson:

On April 15, 2009, the Public Service Board (Board) issued a memorandum requesting that each electric distribution utility review its streetlighting tariff and file certain information with the Board. The reason for the review is to ensure that there are no regulatory barriers to local governments' using efficient street lights (funded with federal stimulus funds or any other means), should they choose to do so. All electric distribution utilities have responded to the Board's request. On June 30, 2009 the Board issued another memorandum requesting comments on the utilities' filing by July 24, 2009. The Department of Public Service (Department) offers the following comments:

The Department shares the Board's goal to ensure that no regulatory barriers prevent installation of efficient street lights. The Department has reviewed the utilities' filings, and notes that Green Mountain Power (GMP) and Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS) presently offer options for customers to own their own streetlighting fixtures. In addition, GMP has proposed adding a light-emitting diode (LED) option to its streetlighting tariff for company-owned fixtures. Thus, for GMP and CVPS it appears that regulatory barriers have been removed to allow customers the choice of efficient street lights.

Other utilities' tariffs, however, seem to present some regulatory barriers that would prevent customers from using efficient street lights, such as LEDs, if they desired. Many of these electric distribution utilities have expressed willingness to amend their tariffs to allow them to offer LED streetlighting technologies in the future.



Customers should be allowed to select energy efficient street light technology if they so choose. This can be accomplished by having the utilities amend their tariffs as needed to allow customers to own their own fixtures, and to add a LED fixture option in their streetlighting tariffs. To that end, we request the Board to require the electric distribution utilities to offer their customers the option to own their own streetlighting fixtures, and offer a LED fixture option in their streetlighting tariff.

Very truly yours,

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

By: 

David O'Brien
Commissioner